

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Peter HAMILTON
Filed : Herewith
Title : FLEXIBLE VACUUM GRABBER FOR HOLDING
LESIONS
Continuation of Appln.
Serial No. : 10/004,939, Filed December 3, 2001
Group Art Unit : To be assigned
Examiner : To be assigned

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

Prior to examination and calculation of the filing fee,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

Page 1, before line 1 insert:

-- This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent
Application Serial No. 10/004,939, filed December 3, 2001 ("the
'939 application"), which is a divisional of U.S. Patent
Application Serial No. 09/456,835 filed on December 7, 1999 ("the
'835 application"). The entire disclosures of the '939
application and the '835 application are hereby expressly
incorporated herein by reference.--

Page 10, please replace the last paragraph of the specification with the paragraph:

-- As explained above, flexible cup 34 opens in its funnel configuration once no longer constrained in working channel 36. The surgeon can look for suspect lesion 24 through the endoscope 11 which is also inserted through the working channel of FTRD 10, and can position flexible cup 34 over the suspect lesion by rotating, pulling and pushing vacuum line 32. By looking with the endoscope 11 through transparent membrane 40 of flexible cup 34, the surgeon can position the funnel-like flexible cup over the suspect lesion 24, and can start applying a vacuum by operating means, such as vacuum pump 60, which can provide both an adjustable vacuum and positive pressure in vacuum line 32. --.